

HOUSE BILL 341

By Hulsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39;
Title 53, Chapter 7 and Title 70, relative to wildlife
harvested in other states.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 70, Chapter 4, Part 1, is amended by
adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Carcass" means the dead body of a deer, elk, or moose or a part of
the dead body;

(2) "Chronic wasting disease" or "CWD" means a contagious
neurological disease causing a characteristic spongy degeneration of the brains
of infected deer, elk, and moose resulting in emaciation, abnormal behavior, loss
of bodily functions, and death. The disease is part of a group of diseases known
as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies; and

(3) "Processor" means a person who engages for profit in this state in the
business of packing or packaging carcasses, meat, meat food products, or meat
by-products for human consumption, or a person engaged for profit in the
business of curing, salting, processing, or other preparing of carcasses, meat,
meat food products, or meat by-products for human consumption.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d), no person may import,
transport, or possess in this state the carcass, or product produced from the carcass, of
a deer, elk, or moose from out of state except for the following:

(1) Antlers, antlers attached to cleaned skull plates, or cleaned skulls where no meat or tissues are attached to the skull;

(2) Cleaned teeth;

(3) Finished taxidermy and antler products;

(4) Hides and tanned products; and

(5) Meat that has all bones removed.

(c)

(1) A deer, elk, or moose harvested in another state that has not been processed may be brought into this state only when the harvested animal is taken directly to a taxidermist authorized to engage in the practice of taxidermy under § 70-2-215, without delay.

(2) A deer, elk, or moose brought into this state under subdivision (c)(1) shall only be used for taxidermy purposes, and all parts of the animal not used for such purposes shall be disposed of in accordance with rules promulgated by the commission.

(d)

(1) A deer, elk, or moose harvested in another state that has not been processed may be brought into this state only when the harvested animal is taken directly to a processor authorized to do business under title 53, chapter 7, part 2, without delay.

(2)

(A) A deer, elk, or moose brought into this state under subdivision (d)(1) shall be kept separate from other harvested animals at a processing facility and shall only be processed upon the confirmation of a negative test for chronic wasting disease conducted on such animals in accordance with rules promulgated by the commission.

(B) A deer, elk, or moose that tests positive for CWD under subdivision (d)(2)(A) shall not be processed at a processing facility and shall be disposed of by the processing facility at which the animal was first taken in accordance with rules promulgated by the commission.

(e) A violation of this section is a Class A misdemeanor punishable by fine only of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). Each offense involving a different animal shall constitute a separate violation.

(f) The commission shall promulgate rules to effectuate the purposes of this section, including the promulgation of rules to provide training to taxidermists and processors in the handling and disposal of deer, elk, or moose brought into this state pursuant to this section.

SECTION 2. For the purpose of promulgating rules, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it. For all other purposes, this act shall take effect September 1, 2017, the public welfare requiring it.